

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on an invention entitled

INTEGRAL HUB AND STRAIN RELIEF

described and claimed in the attached specification; that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the attached specification, including claims; that I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to the examination of this application as required by 37 CFR \$1.56 (see page 2 attached hereto).

I hereby appoint Lawrence M. Nawrocki, Reg. No. 29,333, Wayne A. Sivertson, Reg. No. 25,645, John L. Rooney, Reg. 29,898, David M. Crompton, Reg. No. 36,772, Glenn M. Seager, Reg. No. 36,926, Steven E. Dicke, Reg. No. 38,431, Brian N. Tufte, Reg. No. 38,638, Donald A. Jacobson, Reg. No. 22,308 and Lew Schwartz, Reg. No. 22,067 to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. Please direct all correspondence in this case to Glenn M. Seager at NAWROCKI, ROONEY & SIVERTSON, P.A., Suite 401, Broadway Place East, 3433 Broadway Street Northeast, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55413, Telephone (612) 331-1464.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of first or sole Inventor Thomas J. Holman  
Citizenship U.S.A.  
Inventor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Post Office Address 5621 Thomas Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55410

Full name of second and joint Inventor John E. Arnold, Jr.

Citizenship U.S.A.

Inventor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Residence Minneapolis, Minnesota

Post Office Address 2714 West 55th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55410

Full name of third and joint Inventor Gregory K. Olson

Citizenship U.S.A.

Inventor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Residence St. Louis Park, Minnesota

Post Office Address 3920 Zarthan Avenue South  
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Full name of fourth and joint Inventor Todd A. Berg

Citizenship U.S.A.

Inventor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Residence Lino Lakes, Minnesota

Post Office Address 1517 Broken Oak Court  
Lino Lakes, MN 55038

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(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:

- (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or  
(ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

- (c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

- (1) Each inventor named in the application:

- (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and

- (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.

- (d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.

COMBINED DECLARATION/POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

INTEGRAL HUB AND STRAIN RELIEF

the specification of which (check one)    is attached hereto

XX was filed on 06/05/95  
as U.S. Application  
Serial No. 08/461,867

   and was amended on (if  
applicable)                     

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 (see page 3 attached hereto).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefit(s) under Title 35, United States Code §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Claimed	
<u>          </u> (Number)	<u>          </u> (Country)	<u>          </u> (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<u>  </u> YES <u>  </u>	<u>  </u> NO <u>  </u>
<u>          </u> (Number)	<u>          </u> (Country)	<u>          </u> (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<u>  </u> YES <u>  </u>	<u>  </u> NO <u>  </u>
<u>          </u> (Number)	<u>          </u> (Country)	<u>          </u> (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<u>  </u> YES <u>  </u>	<u>  </u> NO <u>  </u>

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing

date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)

**POWER OF ATTORNEY:** As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Lawrence M. Nawrocki, Reg. No. 29,333;  
Wayne A. Sivertson, Reg. No. 25,645;  
John L. Rooney, Reg. No. 28,898;  
David M. Crompton, Reg. No. 36,772;  
Glenn M. Seager, Reg. No. 36,926;  
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Donald A. Jacobson, Reg. No. 22,308;  
Lew Schwartz, Reg. No. 22,067;  
John A. Rissman, Reg. No. 33,764;  
Luke Dohmen, Reg. No. 36,783;  
Peter J. Gafner, Reg. No. 36,517; and  
Robert E. Atkinson, Reg. No. 36,433

Send correspondence to:

Glenn M. Seager, Reg. No. 36,926  
NAWROCKI, ROONEY & SIVERTSON, P.A.  
Suite 401, Broadway Place East  
3433 Broadway Street Northeast  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55413-3009  
Tel: (612) 331-1464

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon, I further declare that I understand the content of this declaration.

Full name of sole or first inventor Thomas J. Holman  
Inventor's Signature [Signature] Date 7.26.95  
Residence Minneapolis, Minnesota Citizenship U.S.A.  
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Minneapolis, MN 55410

Full name of sole or first inventor John E. Arnold, Jr.  
Inventor's Signature [Signature] Date 7/26/95  
Residence Minneapolis, Minnesota Citizenship U.S.A.  
Post Office Address 2714 West 55th Street  
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Full name of sole or first inventor Gregory K. Olson  
Inventor's Signature [Signature] Date 7/26/95  
Residence St. Louis Park, Minnesota Citizenship U.S.A.  
Post Office Address 3920 Zarthan Avenue South  
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Full name of sole or first inventor Todd A. Berg  
Inventor's Signature [Signature] Date 7/26/95  
Residence Lino Lakes, Minnesota Citizenship U.S.A.  
Post Office Address 1517 Broken Oak Court  
Lino Lakes, MN 55038

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1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.

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- (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

(1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or

(2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:

- (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
- (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

(c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

- (1) Each inventor named in the application;
  - (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
  - (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.
- (d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.